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BOOK NOTICES.

Natural Advanced Geography. Jacques W. Redway and Russell Hinman, American Book Company, 1898.

The Natural Advanced Geography, supported as it is by two names so well known for their success as book makers, attracts an attention that is not usually given to school geographies. The book well deserves the attention it has received, for it contains much that is new and of interest, though it does not cut out a path for future text book writers. Though *man* is announced as the centre around which the book has been constructed, we cannot see that man is over emphasized or that he appears much more prominently than in most text books. There is still room for some future book that will emphasize the human relations to the earth, but in a strictly casual way, so that geography may still be as it should, geocentric. At present there is a tendency to make our geography work anthropocentric, as if we were primarily teaching anthropology or sociology, rather than geography.

The book as a whole is well arranged and pleasing in appearance, and readily usable. The uniform scale for maps is especially to be commended, as is also the careful placing of the illustrations so that they refer to the text, and furthermore to the text immediately adjacent. The illustrations are numerous and usually well chosen. The general appearance of the book is much marred, however, by the difference in quality of illustration in the first and last parts, and much would have been gained had a plate process been adopted for the pictures of our own country. As illustrations are to *illustrate the truth*, it is very unfortunate that so many ideal drawings on a bad scale should be adopted. Oxen that reach to a man's waist, and kangaroos as big as trees are hardly true to nature.

We find the usual lack of proportion in the amount of space devoted to the different parts of the globe so that the United States is emphasized until it may well seem as a recent critic has said "synonymous with the world." We also note the usual questions in the text that are answered in the next paragraph and the questions at the end of the chapters that any teacher who can use the book intelligently would never have need to employ. The suggestions for correlations and comparisons and for supplementary reading are on the whole very good and valuable, particularly when they emphasize the reasons for conditions. A well equipped teacher who has a wealth of extra knowledge at her command for elaboration and illustration can use this book better than almost any other for making her pupils study the relations of cause and effect.

Some teachers will probably be surprised to find that the latest geography announces only *three* continents, and with reason, for it is an unusual usage. It should be said, however, that the authors have been consistent in this use throughout the book. The principles of the modern physiography have been adopted to a certain extent, and occasional summaries of land histories as given under the United States are excellent. We wonder, however, why the authors should adopt and use the word *peneplain*, which some scientists are still opposing, and should fail to use such simple, helpful and self-explanatory terms as *drowned* and *distributary.*

There are occasional statements of fact that we should question, but they are not numerous. The origin of dew as given on p. 14 is hardly adequate or complete, and the use of "Appalachian ridge or valley belt" to include the crystalline mountains to the east is an unfortunate extension of the term not warranted by the geographical history. The same may be said of the use of Prairie plains to include the Prairies and Great Plains. Furthermore, the description of the Great Plains as a part of the Rocky Mountain Highland, though necessary after the adoption of 2,000 feet as the upward limit of a lowland, includes two very dissimilar parts and separates the Great Plains from the eastward Prairies that have been formed under the same conditions and at the same time.

These are some of the questions of difference of opinion with which, perhaps, one should not quibble. When a book has so much to commend, however, it is natural to wish that the authors had gone a little farther, if for no other reason than to preclude the possibility of some new book to bring out a few new points and to add one more to the large list of available school geographies. In conclusion, we would say that any school not now using one of the two or three best books on the market, would find this book perhaps the best for introduction. It will be particularly successful in those schools where the teachers are not able to bring in much of the so-called "new geography." We should not advise other schools to exchange "an old lamp for a new"—for the book in question is not sufficiently in advance of its best competitors to warrant such exchange. The series of two books, the Elementary and Advanced, forms a logical and progressive combination, with less of a break between the books than in any other series we know.

R. E. D.

The longest paper in the *Revista* of the Museo de La Plata, Tomo VIII, is by the Director of the Museum, F. P. Moreno, on a topographical and geological examination (in 1895–96) of the Territories of Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut and Santa Cruz, all in the Andine region of Argentina.

The surveys extended over an area of 7,155 sq. kilometres, between the parallels of 36° and 46° 30 S., and west of 70° 30′, West Longitude. There were 3 determinations of longitude, 328 of latitude and 201 of azimuths, 360 stations fixed with theodolite, and 180 with the prismatic compass. The trigonometrical observations of altitude numbered 271 and the barometrical observations 1,072. The party brought back 960 photographs, besides 6,250 specimens of rocks and fossils, and collections of the fauna and flora and anthropological objects.

The district between the River Limay and Lakes Lacar and Nahuel-Huapi, previously unknown to geographers, was surveyed for a plan on a scale of 1:400,000.

An exact preliminary plan of Lake Nahuel-Huapi presents an outline very different from that hitherto drawn on the maps.

The Fta-Leufu is identified with the River Frio, the Valley of the Diez y Seis de Octubre has been surveyed and the Carreuleufú is traced to its source in Lake General Paz, its hills and low lands.

The plains in which rise the affluents of the Rio Claro were carefully studied. It is in these plains that the interoceanic division of the waters occurs, at the distance of a hundred kilometres, at least, to the eastward of the Cordillera of the Andes.

Lakes Fontana and La Plata were explored to the mountain chain which bounds them in the neighborhood of the Pacific.

Not the least important work of the expedition was to find the best possible routes of communication between the Andes and the Atlantic. These were found to be two: one leading from Puerto San Antonio on the north side of the Gulf of San Matias to Valdivia, on the Chilian coast; the other from Tilly Road, on the Gulf of St. George, to Lakes Buenos Aires and Fontana, and northward through the Valley of the Diez y Seis de Octubre to Lake Nahuel-Huapi.

This interesting paper is illustrated by a large folding map and 42 plates.

Drs. Wehrli and Burckhardt contribute to the same volume their Preliminary Report on a geological expedition, in 1897, to the portion of the Andine Cordillera comprised between the parallels of 33° and 36° S. Latitude.

A paper entitled *Guayaquis y Anamitas*, by Dr. F. Lahille, is very pleasant reading. Dr. Lahille gives the floor to his friend Gen. Frey, who traces the origin of the Guayaquis to the Annamites by the following easy steps in etymology:

> The root *ga*, *gua*, *go*, etc., which seems to exist in the French word *gens*, is also found in Annamite in the word *guoye* or *nguoye*, which means *man*, *he*, *she*. *Ya*, in Annamite as in Breton and in German, and *yes* in English, means: *I understand*, *I have comprehended*, *yes*. *Gua-ya* then, is the people who are in the habit of pronouncing the word *ya*, of saying, *yes*, *I have comprehended.*

This kind of learning is displayed through two pages, and Dr. Lahille cannot refrain from expressing his surprise that Gen. Frey has overlooked the obvious relation between the Guayaqui word *rupia* (wife, daughter) and the Sanskrit word *rupa* (cattle); after which he makes the unkind remark that

> Everybody knows in what exaggerations and crazy fancies certain etymologists too often allow themselves to indulge.

Discussione delle Osservazioni Astronomiche Fatte dal Tenente di Vascello Lamberto Vannutelli, ad detto alla Seconda Spedizione Bòttego in Africa. Nota del Prof. Elia Millosevich, Astronomo del R. Osservatorio del Collegio Romano (from the Memorie della Società Geografica Italiana, Vol. VIII, 1898).

This pamphlet contains Prof. Millosevich's calculation and reduction of all the astronomical observations made by Lieut. Vannutelli, one of the few survivors of the unfortunate Bòttego expedition, massacred near Gobò on the 17th March, 1897.

The observations were taken with a sextant (Troughton and Simms) and were generally double altitudes of stars and distances of the moon from the sun and from the usual stars and planets.

The latitudes of many places were determined by meridian observations and in some cases also by circummeridian observations of stars. The longitudes taken were fewer and less satisfactory, all deduced from lunar distances, the only available method under the conditions of travel, which made the transport of a chronometer a hopeless task. A telescope, for instance, to observe the eclipses of the satellites of Jupiter, would infallibly have been broken, sooner or later, a fate which overtook all the delicate instruments of the party, including even the pocket watches. Only the sextant escaped.

Prof. Millosevich gives the following list of latitudes and longitudes:

132 latitudes calculated, 79 latitudes of places determined.
63 longitudes calculated, 14 longitudes determined.
6 approximate determinations of magnetic declination.